

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Samantha S.H. Tan
Serial No. : 10/696,394
Filed : October 28, 2003
For : CLEANING PROCESSES FOR SILICON CARBIDE MATERIALS
Examiner : MATTHEW J. SONG
Group Art Unit : 1792
Confirmation No. : 6372
Customer No. : 41161
Date Amendment Filed : June 22, 2009

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Interview Summary into the record of the above-captioned patent application.

On June 18, 2009, Applicants' representative, Jessica H. L. Babad, Registration No. 54,636, telephoned Examiner Matthew J. Song, to discuss this application.

Applicants' representative called to discuss proposed claim amendments to overcome the references, which Applicants' representative had faxed to Examiner Song at an earlier date. Examiner Song indicated that he was not clear how "the continuous flow of nitrogen" was patentable. Applicants' representative explained that the Krogh reference (US2003/0136428) only describes passing nitrogen through the holes when the component is immersed in the cleaning solution, and not during the ultrasonication steps. Examiner Song indicated that he would have to review the references more closely as this may be a new issue that would need to be searched, although he thought Krogh generally taught using non-reactive gases to prevent backflow. Applicants' representative further indicated that Krogh describes allowing some of the cleaning solution to enter the holes and flows the nitrogen gas through the holes after the component has been immersed in the cleaning solution, while the presently claimed invention describes purging the openings with a continuous flow of nitrogen before contacting the component with the acid cleaning solution so as to block the migration of the aqueous solution. Examiner Song indicated this was not claimed but if it were, this feature would bring the application a step closer to patentability.

Claim 1 and the Krogh reference were specifically discussed. Agreement was not reached as to the patentability of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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